Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. Canceled.

11. (Previously Presented) A dryer with a housing, a rotary drum for receiving laundry and a bearing for the rotary mounting of the drum in the housing, and with a bracket secured to the housing, and with a cooling device for cooling the bearing, comprising a cooling air conduit, a process air conduit, comprising an air distribution hood adjacent to the bearing, which hood covers process air inlet holes in the drum, the cooling air conduit is formed between the bracket and the air distribution hood in the form of an annular gap, wherein the gap is formed from the bracket and the air distribution hood.

12. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 11, wherein the annular gap is arranged around the bearing.

13. (Currently Amended) The dryer according to claim 11, wherein the cooling device comprises means for improving the radiation or convection of heat from the bearing and/or from the area adjacent to the bearing, and/or wherein cooling faces are provided which are thermally and conductively connected to the bearing.

14. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 11, wherein the cooling device has a device for feeding cooling air, preferably ambient air, to the bearing.

15. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 14, wherein a fan is provided for conveying process air through the drum and/or for conveying cooling air for a condenser, wherein the fan belongs to the device for feeding cooling air to the bearing.

16. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 15, wherein a process air conduit is provided, wherein a section of at least one of the process air conduit and the drum is loaded with a vacuum by a conveying action of the fan, and forms a vacuum space, and wherein a cooling air conduit is provided between the vacuum space and the bearing, through which conduit air can be sucked in the form of ambient air adjacent to the bearing, and can be as spent air to the process air.

17. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 15, wherein a process air conduit is provided, wherein a section of at least one of the process air conduit and the drum is loaded with a vacuum by a conveying action of the fan, and forms a vacuum space, and wherein a cooling air conduit is provided between the vacuum space and the bearing, through which conduit some of the air conveyed to the fan can be fed to the bearing in order to cool the bearing.

18. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 11, wherein a process air conduit is provided as a circuit with a condenser which is cooled by a cooling air flow, and in which some of the cooling air flow is branched and fed via a cooling air conduit to the bearing in order to cool the bearing.

19. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 11, wherein the quantity of cooling air for the bearing is determined by the dimension of the cooling air conduit.

20. (Previously Presented) A laundry dryer comprising:

a housing,

a drum disposed within the housing;

a bearing supporting the drum for rotational movement with respect to the housing;

a process air conduit disposed in the housing and including a fan generating a process air flow within the housing;

an air distribution hood directing the process air flow from the process air conduit into the drum;

a bracket connected to the housing and supporting the bearing; and

an annular gap disposed between the bracket and the air distribution hood, the annular gap receiving a cooling air flow of ambient air from outside the process air conduit to cool the bearing.

21. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the bracket extends radially outwardly from the bearing.

22. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the bracket is made from a thermally conductive material discharging heat from the bearing.

23. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 22, wherein the bracket is made from a metal material.

24. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the process air conduit includes a heater heating the process air flow upstream of the air distribution hood.

25. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the laundry dryer comprises an exhaust dryer including an inlet opening receiving an air flow into the process air conduit and an exhaust for discharging the process air flow out of the housing.

26. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the annular gap discharges the cooling air flow into the air distribution hood and the cooling air flow mixes with the process air flow.

27. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the cooling air flow enters the annular gap from a radially outer end and flows radially inwardly toward the bearing.

28. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 20, wherein the laundry dryer comprises a condenser dryer and the process air conduit forms a closed circuit including a condenser removing moisture from the process air flow, a cooling air conduit directing the cooling air flow of ambient air toward the annular gap.

29. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 28, wherein the bracket includes multiple openings extending through the bracket adjacent the bearing and being in fluid flow communication with the annular gap, the cooling air flow entering the annular gap through the multiple openings and flowing radially outwardly through the annular gap away from the bearing, the cooling air flow and the process air flow remaining separate from one another.

30. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer according to claim 28, wherein the bracket includes multiple openings extending through the bracket adjacent the bearing and being in fluid flow communication with the annular gap,

the cooling air flow entering the annular gap from a radially outer end and flowing radially inwardly toward the bearing and being discharged from the annular gap through the multiple openings, the cooling air flow and the process air flow remaining separate from one another.